

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

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P R 110841Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7886

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 8559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: LABOR SCENE: VIEWS OF SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE  
LA MATA

1. SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER ENRIQUE DE LA MATA COMMENTED  
ON A VARIETY OF POLITICAL (SEPTEL) AND LABOR TOPICS DURING  
THE COURSE OF A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH ME ON NOVEMBER 9.  
THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS REMARKS ON THE LABOR SCENE ARE REPORTED  
BELOW.

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2. LABOR REFORM BILL. DE LA MATA WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN

LINING UP FAVORABLE VOTES IN THE CORTES. HE RECOUNTED WITH RELISH A TACTICAL PLOY WHICH WOULD HAVE PROMINENT RIGHTWING SPOKESMAN ANTONIO MARIA DE ORIO--THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF FUNDAMENTAL LAW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LOPEZ BRAVO--DEFENDING THE LABOR BILL. ORIO-- WOULD TAKE THE LINE THAT WHILE HE MIGHT NOT PERSONALLY FAVOR ALL OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF LABOR REFORM, THE MOVE TO A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM DEMANDED SUCH LEGISLATION. (AND, ONE MIGHT ADD, THE ORIO-- FAMILY'S FINANCIAL STAKE IN LABOR PEACE). DE LA MATA WAS CONFIDENT THIS WOULD HAVE A REASSURING EFFECT ON THE SYNDICAL BUNKER IN THE CORTES. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE BILL WOULD GO TO COMMITTEE LATE NOVEMBER, AND WOULD BE PASSED IN MID-DECEMBER. HE CHARACTERIZED TRADE UNION OBJECTIONS (MADRID 8484) AS LARGELY FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, SAYING THAT LABOR HAD TOLD HIM IT COULD LIVE WITH THE BILL. HE HAD MADE THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AS LIBERAL AS POSSIBLE: THE UNIONS (INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSION) HAD ONLY TO DEPOSIT THEIR STATUTES AND BY-LAWS, AND IF THESE WERE NOT FOUND TO BE CONTRARY TO LAW, THAT WAS THAT. WITH RESPECT TO THE APPARENT LIMITATION ON UNION LINKS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, THIS WOULD HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT ON POLITICAL CONNECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONISTS, AND HAD ONLY BEEN INSERTED TO ALLAY THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE ACORTES BUNKER. THE USE OF THE WORK "ASSOCIATION" INSTEAD OF "TRADE UNION" HAD NO OTHER INTENT BUT TO AVOID LEGAL CONFLICT WITH THE TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE STILL EXTANT FRANCO-ER CONSTITUTIONAL THE TERM "ASSOCIATION" WAS ALSO USED IN ILO CONVENTIONS, HE SAID.

PROVISIONS ON LABOR (FUERO DE TRABAJO). DE LA MATA SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO GENEVA SHORTLY TO TALK WITH ILO SEC GEN BLACHARD REGARDING RATIFICATION PROCEDURES INVOLVING ILO CONVENTIONS 87 AND 98.

3. AUTONOMOUS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. THIS WOULD BE A TRANSITORY BODY (SEE MADRID 7949) WHICH WOULD HANDLE THE PATRIMONY AND THE NON-TRADE UNION, SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE OFFICIAL SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS VARIOUS APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES COULD TAKE THEM OVER. THE SSO WAS CURRENTLY COMPILING A LIST OF CONFISCATED PROPERTIES--AS WAS THE UGT--IN ORDER THAT THAT UNION (AND PERHAPS OTHERS) MIGHT BE PROPERLY COMPENSATED. HOWEVER, THE VAST BULK OF THE

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SO-CALLED SSO PATRIMONY WAS IN FACT "PUBLIC PROPERTY" WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED BY THE GOVT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL WORKERS THROUGH VARIOUS SOCIAL PROGRAMS. IN THAT CONNECTION, DE LA MATA INTIMATED THAT A MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD PROBABLY EMERGE NEXT YEAR AS PART OF THE GOVT REORGANIZATION PROGRAM. WHEN ASKED IF HIS POSITION--THAT OF SYDNICAL RELATIONS MINISTER--MIGHT BE ABOLISHED SOON, DE LA MATA SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT SOME SUCH SLOT WOULD

BE NECESSARY FOR SOME TIME TO COME IN ORDER TO "HELP GUIDE THE  
CHANGEOVER TO FREE TRADE UNIONISM." HE SAID THAT HE WOULD USE THE  
CHRISTMAS BREAK TO DIVEST THE LARGE SSO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
IN MADRID OF ITS FALANGIST SYMBOLS.

4. COUNCIL OF NATIONAL ECONOMY. NOW THAT THE IDEA OF AN  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL HAD BEEN SCRAPPED, THE CORTES WAS  
BEING ASKED TO UNDERTAKE THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE 36-YEAR  
OLD COUNCIL OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (CEN). HE ENVISAGED IT AS A  
SORT OF CONSULTATIVE, THIRD CHAMBER WHICH COULD PLAY A USEFUL  
ROLE IN COORDINATING ECONOMIC POLITICS OF NATIONAL IMPORT.  
THE CEN WOULD CONSIST OF 250 MEMBERS: 70 REPRESENTING LABOR, 70  
THE EMPLOYERS, 40 THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE REMAINDER REPRESENTING  
SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SUCH AS  
TEACHERS AND CONSUMERS.

5. TRADE UNIONS. SPEAKING OF THE SWC AND NOTING ITS INTERNAL  
PROBLEMS (SEPTEL), THE CABINET MEMBER SAID THAT SPANIARDS BY  
AND LARGE JUST DON'T ACCEPT COMMUNISTS. HE PINPOINTED THE  
SOCIALIST UGT AS THE UNION MOST ABLE TO SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM, RELEGATING THE CHRISTIAN  
SOCIALIST USO AND THE ANARCHO-SYNDICAL CNT TO SECONDARY  
POSITIONS, THE LATTER STRONG IN THE "ROMANTIC" CATALAN AREA.  
HE DISLIKED THE "OUTDATED", POLITICAL COLORATION OF EUROPEAN  
LABOR (ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE AND ITALY), MUCH PREFERRING THE  
EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN (ECONOMIC) TRADE UNIONISM. HE REFERRED  
SEVERAL TIMES TO THE BASICALLY STABLE AND RESPONSIBLE NATURE  
OF THE SPANIARDS--DESPITE THEIR LATIN HERITAGE--MAKING THE  
POINT THAT IN TODAY'S COMPARATIVELY AFFLUENT SPAIN WHERE  
THE PER CAPITA GNP WAS \$3000 (ACTUALLY IT IS \$2511) RATHER  
THAN THE \$200 OF YESTERYEAR, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DRUM UP  
RADICAL REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR.

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